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A Primer on the Fair Defense Act of 2001 for Newly Elected Officials and Staff

Last Legislative session, Governor Perry signed a law establishing the Texas Indigent Defense Commission (Commission). The Commission replaced what was formerly known as the Task Force on Indigent Defense. The Commission and its staff distribute just over \$30 million annually to Texas's 254 counties. This program will address what is required for a county to receive state funding through the Commission's grant program and the impacts as well as identify the core requirements of the Fair Defense Act. The program is led by the Honorable Sharon Keller, Presiding Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals. The Commission is a body of 13 appointed and ex-officio members.

**January 17, 2013 – 10 am – noon, Capitol Extension Auditorium
(Also available as live broadcast:**

<http://www.senate.state.tx.us/bin/live.php>)

Chair:
The Honorable Sharon Keller
Presiding Judge, Court of Criminal
Appeals

Vice Chair:
The Honorable Olen Underwood

Ex Officio Members:
Honorable Sharon Keller
Honorable Wallace B. Jefferson
Honorable Roberto Alonzo
Honorable Sherry Radack
Honorable Laura Weiser
Honorable John Whitmire

Members Appointed by Governor:
Honorable Jon Burrows
Mr. Knox Fitzpatrick
Mr. Anthony Odiorne
Honorable Olen Underwood
Honorable B. Glen Whitley

Executive Director:
James D. Bethke

Agenda

9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Registration
10:00 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.	Opening Remarks <i>Senator Rodney Ellis and Representative Roberto Alonzo invited</i> Judge Sharon Keller, Presiding Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals; also Chair, Texas Indigent Defense Commission Mary Anne Wiley, Deputy General Counsel, Office of the Governor Christopher Burnett, Executive Director, Criminal Justice Division, Office of the Governor
10:20 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Helpful Resources from the Office of Court Administration David Slayton, Administrative Director, Office of Court Administration; also Executive Director, Texas Judicial Council
10:30 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.	A Primer on the Fair Defense Act of 2001 Jim Bethke, Executive Director, Texas Indigent Defense Commission
10:50 a.m. – 11:10 a.m.	Helping Counties Implement What Works For System-Wide Cost Savings Leah Pinney, Finance and Operations Director, Texas Criminal Justice Coalition
11:10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Role of Advocates in Bettering Indigent Defense Andrea Marsh, Executive Director, Texas Fair Defense Project
11:30 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.	Concluding Thoughts on Future of Indigent Defense Jim Allison, General Counsel, County Judges and Commissioners Association
10:50 a.m. – noon	Question & Answers

Registration: Easy! Email your name, position, organization to terri.tuttle@txcourts.gov

We look forward to seeing you there! No need to register if showing up last minute or watching live broadcast.